

Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device having at least one skin-piercing microneedle which comprises a support member coated with a solid reservoir medium containing the DNA pharmaceutical agent, and a stabilising agent that inhibits the degradative effects of free radicals.

2. (Original): A DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the stabilising agent is one or both of a metal ion chelator and a free radical scavenger.

3. (Original): A DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in claim 2 wherein the metal ion chelating agent is selected from the group consisting of inositol hexaphosphate, tripolyphosphate, succinic and malic acid, ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid (EDTA), tris (hydroxymethyl) amino methane (TRIS), Desferal, diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA) and ethylenediamine dihydroxyphenylacetic acid (EDDHA).

4. (Currently amended): A DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in claim 2 wherein the ~~non-reducing~~ free radical scavenger is ~~selecting~~ selected from the group consisting of ethanol, methionine ~~or~~ and glutathione.

5. (Currently amended): A DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the stabilising agent that inhibits the degradative effects of free radicals, is ~~(a) a member selected from~~ Phosphate buffered ethanol solution in combination with methionine or EDTA, ~~or~~ and ~~(b) the group consisting of~~ Tris buffered

EDTA in combination with methionine or ethanol (or a combinations of methionine and ethanol).

6. (Currently amended): A DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the solid reservoir medium is an amorphous polyol.

7. (Original): A DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the polyol is a stabilising polyol.

8. (Currently amended): A DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1 wherein the solid biodegradable reservoir medium is a sugar.

9. (Currently amended): A DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in claim 8 wherein the sugar is a member selected from the group consisting of lactose, glucose, sucrose, raffinose ~~or~~ and trehalose.

10. (Currently amended): A DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 wherein the solid reservoir medium is in the form of a glass.

11. (Original): A DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the solid reservoir medium is in the form of a sugar glass.

12. (Currently amended): A DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1 wherein the DNA pharmaceutical agent is supercoiled plasmid DNA.

13. (Original): A DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the supercoiled plasmid DNA is stabilised such that after storage at 37°C for 4 weeks greater than 50% of the DNA remains in its supercoiled form.

14. (Original): A DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the DNA is stabilised such that when released the ratio of monomer:dimer supercoiled form is within the range of 0.8:1.2.

15. (Currently amended): A DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1 wherein the solid biodegradable reservoir medium releases the pharmaceutical agent within 24 hours after insertion of the skin-piercing microneedle into the skin.

16. (Currently amended): A DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1 wherein the skin piercing ~~members are~~ microneedle is dimensioned to deliver the agent into the dermis.

17. (Currently amended): A DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1, wherein the skin piercing ~~members are~~ microneedle is dimensioned to deliver the agent into the epidermis.

18. (Currently amended): A DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 17~~ claim 1 wherein the support members ~~are~~ is a solid needles, microcannulas or microblades.

19. (Currently amended): A DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1, wherein the device is an electroporation device.

20. (Currently amended): A DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in claim 19 wherein the coated support members of the device ~~are the~~ is an electrodes of the electroporation device.

21. (Currently amended): A DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 20~~ claim 1, wherein the DNA pharmaceutical agent is a vaccine.

22. (Currently amended): A DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 21~~ claim 1, wherein the solid reservoir medium further comprises a member selected from the group consisting of a vaccine adjuvant, transfection facilitating agent, DNAase inhibitor ~~or~~ and a crystal poisoner.

23. (Currently amended): A DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in claim 22, wherein the adjuvant is a member selected from the group consisting of CpG, a synthetic imidazoquinolines, tucerasol, a cytokines, MPL, QS21, QS7 and an oil-in-water emulsions.

24. (Currently amended): A process for the preparation of a DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in claim 1, comprising making a solution of DNA pharmaceutical agent, reservoir medium, and stabilising agent that inhibits the degradative effects of free radicals in ~~an~~ solvent, followed by coating the at least one support member with said solution, and removing the solvent to form a solid reservoir medium containing the pharmaceutical agent and agent that inhibits the degradative effects of free radicals.

25. (Original): A process for the preparation of a DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in claim 24, wherein the reservoir medium is a sugar.

26. (Currently amended): A process for the preparation of a DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in claim 25 wherein the concentration

of sugar prior to ~~drying onto the support member~~ removing the solvent is in the range of 20-40% w/v.

27. (Original): A process for the preparation of a DNA pharmaceutical agent delivery device as claimed in claim 24, wherein the solvent is demetalated prior to the process.